

FBIS LATERAL SERVICE SUPPORT TO
AMERICAN EMBASSY, MANAMA/
GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN

The American Embassy, Manama, and the Government of Bahrain (GOB) now receive various lateral servicing support from the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) in general, and FBIS Gulf Bureau, Manama, Bahrain, in particular. In the event of a closure of FBIS Gulf Bureau, certain services would be affected. The purpose of this report is to review what services are presently being provided to the embassy and GOB, which services will be affected in the event of the closure of the bureau, and to review possibilities and provide suggestions for lateral servicing by other FBIS bureaus in the event such a closedown materializes.

FBIS Gulf Bureau will provide every assistance to the embassy to ensure that the latter continues to receive the highest degree of support required from FBIS and help to ensure that the closedown of the bureau has as little impact on the embassy in terms of information support as possible.

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Deputy Chief, FBIS
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I. FBIS presently provides the following lateral services to the American Embassy, Manama, through Gulf Bureau (Manama, Bahrain) and other Mideast bureaus and London Bureau (note that those services marked with an asterick are being provided only by Gulf Bureau and are not provided by other FBIS bureaus; it is recommended that the embassy subscribe to those services underlined in order to ensure continuing and full coverage of areas of concern to embassy officers):

LATERAL SERVICE
LIST ENTRY

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

* <u>MID-ALERT 3:</u>	Priority and immediate items on the Arabian Peninsula -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, YAR, PDRY
MID-BAHRAIN 1:	Items on Bahrain
MID-IRAQ 2:	Speeches by Iraqi leaders
* <u>MID-PENINSULA 2:</u>	Items from Arabian Peninsula media
* <u>MID-PENINSULA 3:</u>	Items from Baghdad INA, Doha QNA, Abu Dhabi WAM, and Manama WAKH (this service should be adequately covered by MID-PENINSULA 2, MID-ALERT 3, and AIG 4659)
MID-TRENDS 1:	Middle East TRENDS articles
* <u>MID-YEMEN 1:</u>	Items on North and South Yemen (this service should be covered by MID-PENINSULA 2, MID-ALERT 3, and AIG 4659)
SAS-IRAN 2:	Items from Iranian broadcasts
SAS-IRAN 5:	Speeches by Iranian leaders
SAS-IRAN 6:	Items on Gulf states from Tehran Arabic broadcasts
* <u>SAS-IRAN 7:</u>	Items from Iranian press agencies and newspapers (Note: technically, you should not be receiving routine items transmitted by IRNA because you are not listed as a consumer for this service, but I see that you do receive such items from our bureau in London; you do not normally receive processed items from Iranian newspapers)

AIG 4620: Middle East and South Asia Review

AIG 4622: Priority and immediate items on Iran from Iranian sources

AIG 4623: Priority and Immediate items on Iraqi-Iranian relations

*AIG 4659: Priority items on or from the Arabian Peninsula

Should all the above services continue to be provided to the embassy by other FBIS bureaus, it would mean an increase in the number of items received by the embassy communications unit of approximately 10 items per day. Bear in mind that a crisis in the area, such as the recent events in the PDRY, will result in an increase in traffic received.

II. Under existing arrangements, the bureau provides via courier service copies of all incoming and outgoing material (excluding service messages, fyi's, administrative messages, and coordination messages) to the Information Ministry of the Government of Bahrain. Should the bureau close, this service of course would be lost. The embassy could continue to provide selected material to the ministry from the copy it receives should it so desire; however, under current lateral servicing arrangements, if service is provided by the embassy, the ministry will no longer receive material on countries outside the Gulf area (other Middle East countries and those of North Africa and the Horn of Africa, as well as South Asian countries). Should the embassy want to be kept abreast of high precedence traffic from such countries, whether for its own information or to pass along to the ministry, there are several lateral service listings which could suit this need. Such material on average would total approximately 10-20 items per day. However, bear in mind that FBIS coverage of events in Libya, Lebanon and other "hot spots" is quite extensive and at times most definitely will result in massive increases in the number of items received, and thus it is highly recommended that the embassy not take on these services. However, for your information, these services are:

MID-ALERT 2: Immediate items on Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, and Syria

MID-ALERT 5: Priority and immediate items on North Africa (Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria)

SAF-ALERT 2: Priority and immediate items on the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, and Sudan)

III. There are several other lateral service listings dealing with area affairs to which the embassy might want to consider being added:

MID-PENINSULA 1: Items on Arabian Peninsula from Mideast media

MID-TERROR 1: Items on terrorist activities in the Mideast

SAS-IRAN 2: Items on Iran from clandestine broadcasts

The addition of such services in terms of number of daily items would on average be insignificant. However, once again it must be stressed that at times the volume of wirefiled traffic is voluminous, especially in coverage of hijackings and other terrorist activities.

IV. The embassy at present receives a limited number of items related to the Palestine Liberation Organization (in fact, it receives only those items filed by Gulf Bureau). Should it wish to continue to receive items on the PLO, it will have to be listed as a consumer under MID-PLO 1, which will, however, result in a broader and larger number of items filed to them by other FBIS bureaus (approximately 15-20 items per day). This LSL service is as follows:

MID-PLO 1: Items on Palestine Liberation Resistance Organization activities, including speeches, broadcasts, major articles, and reports of clashes

In summary, should FBIS Gulf Bureau close down, the American Embassy, Manama, has the following options with regard to receiving FBIS wirefiled translated and English-language copy:

1. It can continue to receive all the copy it is now receiving via its commo system (i.e. material dealing with the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, the Iran-Iraq war, and the PLO). This would, however, mean the following "increases" in items received:

A. Items dealing with the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, and the Iran-Iraq war -- approximately 10 items per day.

B. Items dealing with the PLO -- (10) items per day. 15-20

(Note: Either A or B options can be selected, or both)

2. There are several services, as outlined under point III, which the embassy might want to consider adding to complement existing services. The increase in the number of items received would be minimal under normal conditions, but could reach massive numbers in a hijacking situation.

3. Should the embassy wish to keep abreast of priority developments in the Middle East, and perhaps North Africa and the Horn of Africa, such services are available, as outlined in point II. Again, it must be heavily emphasized that the volume of traffic from these services quite frequently reaches massive proportions, and thus it is highly recommended that the embassy does not subscribe to these services.